



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

February 17, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Women in History Writing Contest

Virginia students in grades 6-12 are invited to honor outstanding women in Virginia history by participating in Encyclopedia Virginia and the Library of Virginia's *Virginia Women in History* student writing contest. Four winning essays will be chosen, two from students in grades 6-8, and two from students in grades 9-12. Prizes include a Kindle Fire for each student winner and \$250 for each winner's school. Deadline for submissions is Friday, March 10, 2017. For contest rules and other information, please visit <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2017/essay.htm>.

The 2017 Virginia Women in History honorees' names and biographies are available at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2017/essay.htm>. Educational resources including Using the Primary Resources Associated with the Virginia Women in History Program is available at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2017/educators.htm>.

For more information about the Virginia Women in History Program or Writing Contest, please contact the Library of Virginia education team, by email at education@lva.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 692-3999; or Betsy Barton, Specialist for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

SRS/BSB/vdg